



EN ROUTE TO THE

# KLONDIKE

A SERIES OF

PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

CHILKOOT PASS  
SKAGUAY TRAIL  
LAKE LINDERMAN  
LAKE BENNETT

Part V.

ST. MICHAELS  
DAWSON CITY  
FORTY MILE CREEK  
YUKON RIVER

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W. B. CONKEY COMPANY

CHICAGO & NEW YORK

People's Series.—Vol. 6, No. 37, March 26, 1898. Issued Weekly. Annual Subscription, \$13.00.  
Entered at the Post Office at Chicago as second-class matter.

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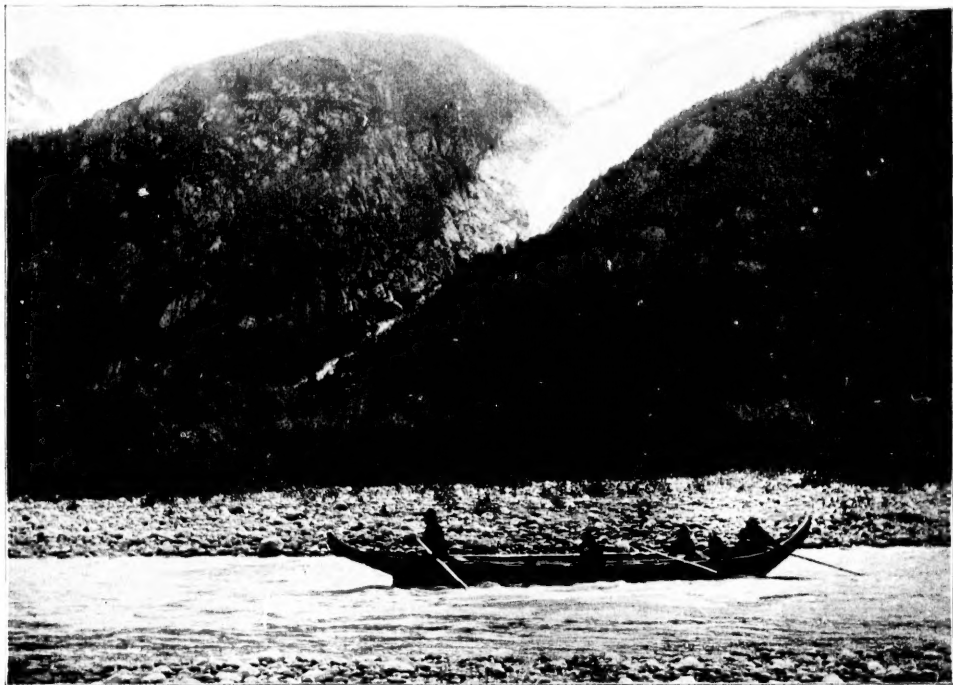
La Roche. Photo, Seattle, Wash.

A TYPICAL KLONDIKE SCENE. - The gold-bearing belt of Northwestern America contains all the gold fields extending into British Columbia and what is known as the Northwestern Territory of Alaska. The Yukon really runs along in that belt for 500 or 600 miles. The bed of the main river is in the valley. The yellow metal is not found in paying quantities in the main river, but in small streams which cut through the mountains on each side. Mud and mineral matter are carried into the main river, while the gold is left on the rough bottoms of the side streams. This is the expressed belief of an eminent geologist, Dr. W. H. Dall, of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. Dr. Dall speaks with the very highest authority.



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A CLAIM.—At last these two "pardners" have struck something, and they are satisfied it is worth holding and working. Whether it is a placer mine or a mother lode matters not, the first duty of the prospector when he makes a "find," is to "locate" and "file" his claim. It is necessary to make a correct survey of the claim, under authority of the survey-general of the state or territory in which the claim lies. The exterior boundaries of the claim should be shown with accuracy in the survey, and the boundaries must be clearly marked by monuments on the ground. It is difficult to imagine a more desirable spot than that shown in the photograph. It is picturesque, healthy, well watered, and protected.



Copyright, 1895, by La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

NEAR DAWSON CITY.—Sometimes the miners indulge in a little recreation, although their lives in the Klondike are divided between uninterrupted work in the warm weather and little else than "California Jack" in the winter. The above photograph depicts an Indian canoe, in which are some miners trying to navigate the boat through the rapid running waters. This is an exciting pastime, even after one has become skillful enough to manage a native dug-out, Indian fashion. If tourists who love the wonderful in nature were to give the matter thought, they would soon learn that in going to Europe, before seeing Alaska, they are omitting one of the most attractive and exciting trips on earth.



La Roche. Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**ON THE YUKON.**—In midsummer the Yukon is navigable for more than 2,300 miles. The ice does not go out of the river, even at Dawson City, until June, or at the earliest, late in May; and early in September the river closes. The character of the climate is sub-arctic, and about Dawson City one actually experiences the main features of the Arctic zone. Agriculture is quite impossible, as it may freeze any night of the year. It should not be supposed that "The Klondike" includes any considerable part of the immense country of Alaska, as it is only one of the small tributaries of the Yukon. As a stream it was not of sufficient importance to appear on the early maps. The sun shines for twenty hours a day during summer.





La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**TESTING FOR GOLD.**—In searching for mineral veins, the geological character of the country should be taken into careful consideration. Where roads are cut through, it is advisable to examine the exposed sections. Landslides, cliffs, and sections through which the water has made a way, offer every opportunity for the miner to determine the kind of stratification. The discovery of free gold in matter washed down from high ground is not to be taken as evidence that gold bearing rock or quartz is in the immediate neighborhood. There is a chance, however, that lodes may be found on elevations of land near the alluvial deposit. It is always wise for the prospector who has struck a "placer mine" to inspect the neighboring elevations.





La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

MUNOOK CREEK.—Munook Creek, which is sometimes spelled Menook or Mmook, is a little northeast of the town of Weare, at the mouth of the Tanana River. The discovery of gold was made on this creek in August, 1896, by a Russian-American half-breed Indian, after whom it was named. It was during the time the Circle City excitement was at its greatest rush, following which came the findings in the Klondike and the consequent excitement that resulted. Munook was, therefore, neglected until last year, when the miners began to arrive, after working the whole summer on their claims which were staked out in other places. Near the mouth of Munook Creek a town is being built, and it is to be known as Rampart City.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**PROVISIONS AT MUNOOK.**—When the miners began to look into the prospects of Munook Creek they very soon decided to get provisions down to the new diggings. The Alaska Commercial Company made preparations to supply them with food, and the log store house of the company was already built, so that the miners set to work clearing the ground for the cabins which they intended to erect. This winter has probably seen nearly a thousand men located there. As much as two and four dollars to the pan have been discovered on bed-rock, while nuggets to the value of ten and twelve dollars have been taken out. Judging from recent "finds" on Munook Creek, Rampart City may be taking the proud place of Dawson City this year.



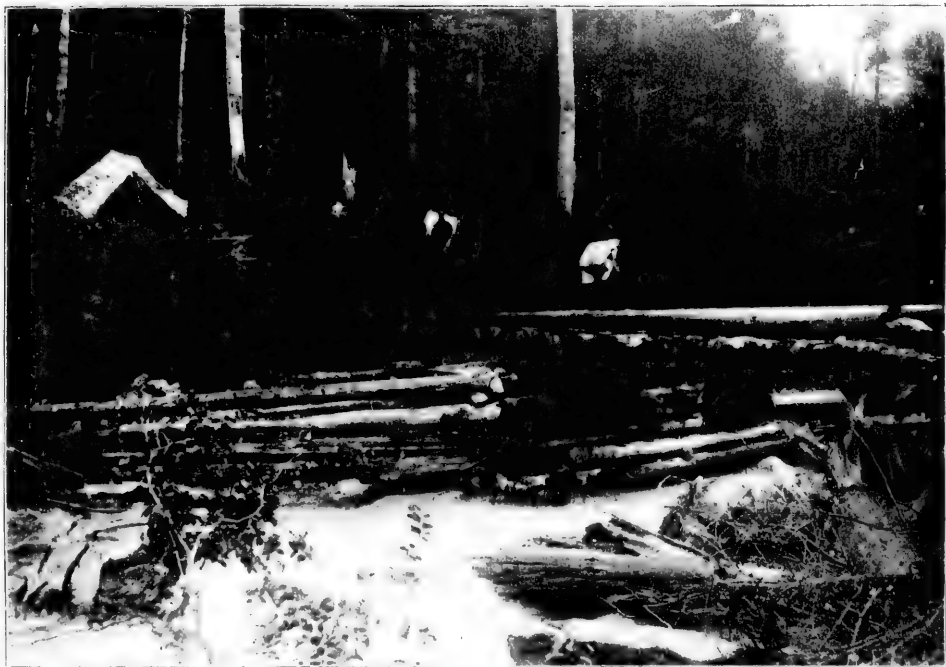
La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**DOG TEAM ON THE YUKON.**—In the local markets of Seattle and Tacoma good sized dogs were selling at prices that varied from \$15 to \$30 each. They are worth double that sum at Juneau, while on the Yukon River the traveler has to pay from \$100 to \$150 for a good dog. Thick necked, shaggy haired, broad footed canines have become much more valuable than horses since the gold fever set in; and the dog problem is often a pretty hard one for the miner to solve. The team in the photograph is a very fine one, yet the harnessed brutes, although they are valuable, would readily change conditions with the average homeless cur in a large city. The scene depicted above conveys an excellent impression of what the Yukon is like in winter.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**COMING OUT FROM DAWSON CITY.**—This procession of dog teams left Dawson City in the winter, intending to take the trails to various parts that rumor held up to the hopes of the travelers as being more desirable than the place they were leaving. "Luck" is an important item of belief to miners in general, and they readily fall back on it for an excuse. Sometimes a group of men who have not struck it rich will abandon their old quarters for new fields, and somebody else may come along shortly afterwards and make a "find" in the very place that has been ignored or treated with contempt. "Luck" is the answer, and many circumstances arise in the average miner's experience to justify an earnest belief in it.



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**CROSSING A TRIBUTARY OF THE YUKON.**—When the frost and snow have given place to the kindly warmth of a summer sun the innumerable tributaries of the mighty Yukon furnish charms for the sightseer and delight for the naturalist. It seems unkind of nature to hide so much natural beauty in the cloak of winter for so many months out of each year. In the struggle for existence nature appears to gain strength, and when the least warmful rays of the sun break through the cold air, vegetation bursts forth with surprising energy as if to make up for so much lost time. When the mosquito is hunting for blood and the streams are crowded with life it does not seem possible that one has to get injured to 70 degrees below zero so soon after.



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**A BIT OF FOREST.**—After a very few months of energetic life, everything suddenly begins to bear a dull aspect. The transformation is too rapid. The trees shed their leaves too quickly, the denizens of the forest beat a retreat too soon, chilly days come with little or no intimation and winter is upon the inhabitant of these regions before he has well satisfied himself that the joys of summer are about to depart. The bit of forest pictured above was almost deserted, and seemed to be sullenly brooding over the prospect of the unwelcome mantle of white it was soon to wear. The trail through the middle of the forest is so clearly defined that it may almost be called a wagon road. In fact, a great many wagons used this trail, which is on the outskirts of Dawson City.



WASHING OUT GOLD.—This picture shows a group of miners in the act of "washing out" gold, as in the days of '49. The camp is but temporary and work is not yet begun in dead earnest. The men are testing the sand and gravel deposit along the edge of the stream in the hope of striking "pay dirt." The figure in stooping posture is "cradling" the mud and sand from which the muddy water is poured off. In the bottom of the pan settles the gravel, and with it the grains of yellow metal so anxiously sought. It is from this method of mining, so popular in the early California days, that the expression "panned out" arose, and from which so many fortunes are made by men whose outfits cost so little.





La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**TESTING GRAVEL ON THE YUKON.**--If this hardy band of prospectors do not find here the golden grains they are seeking they will continue the search from day to day until they probably strike gravel that will "pan out" \$3.00 to \$5.00 a pan. Then visions of happiness and independence will fill their heads, and they will work hard until enough ready money is in hand to enable them to drink health to the god of luck. Then if luck's deity happen to have bestowed his favors upon sensible men they will be satisfied to drink the health of their good genius without finding it necessary to expend the proceeds of their good fortune upon drinking the health of everybody else they come in contact with.



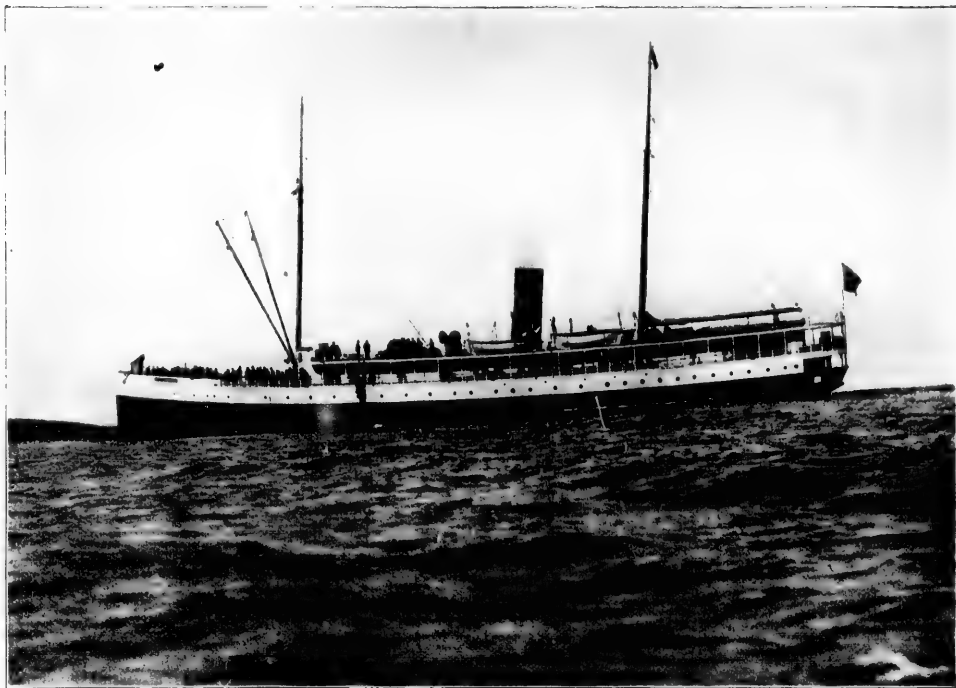
La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**PRINCE ANTONE.**— One can readily discover contentment on the face of this gentleman, although the background to his figure is nothing better than a cosy log cabin. There is an air of domesticity about the scene that will appeal to many an ambitious man who has gone to risk everything in the Klondike. This photograph was taken at Birch Creek, where Mr. Antone had struck it rich, and was making himself comfortable as far as the surroundings would permit. Gold was discovered in the neighborhood of Birch Creek in 1893, and since then it has had a big run of popularity. From Circle City, which is eight miles from Birch Creek, a trail leads right away over the hills to the mines on Independence and Mastodon Creeks.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

A MINER'S CABIN.—This was another quiet little spot in the same locality—a desirable little out-of-the-way corner where poker could be played without interruptions from peddlers or tramps. Cabins in the Klondike represent a much larger outlay than many attractive frame houses in the cities. Carpenters and house painters out of employment should not hesitate to go to the gold fields. With a supply of tools and a healthy ambition, they stand a good chance of striking a gold mine by erecting houses, even if they fail to strike a better one under foot. The demand for houses in the Klondike is going to create a big boom in the carpentering business and the lucky ones who have already struck quarters are in the way of a good thing.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**A SHIPLOAD OF MINERS.**—This is a photograph of the steamer Humbolt near the mouth of the Yukon river. It is loaded with Klondikers, and every one of them is looking forward to returning with some big figures attached to his name. The percentage of men who are disappointed, is, of course, greater than the percentage of successful ones, but that applies to every walk in life. They all set out cheerfully, and many return happy, while the majority, if they fail to make money, succeed in getting valuable experience. Going to the Klondike by water is far preferable to the overland route. It does not call for so much energy. But the overland trip prepares the traveler for the hardships he may have to encounter when he reaches the land of gold.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**U. S. CUTTER "BEAR" ICE-BOUND IN BEHRING SEA.**—This photograph was taken near the Behring strait, which separates Asia from America and connects the Pacific with the Arctic ocean. One can readily fancy he is near the North Pole, judging from the arctic appearance of the scene. The men aboard the "Bear" which is on duty in the Behring sea are of necessity a hardy crew and would make fitting candidates for a North Pole expedition. With the opening up of Alaska by the many people en route to the gold fields, and the towns that are consequently springing up in all directions, the government of the United States will soon find it necessary to have more cutters in the neighborhood of St. Michaels and the Behring sea.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

FORT "GET THERE."—This is a station of the North American Transportation and Trading Company at St. Michael's Island. There are so many troublesome names along the coasts of Alaska that it is a pleasant relief to come across one so homely. Mr. P. B. Weare, president of the company, is rather proud of the christening. He says: "This is no antediluvian Russian name, but a real United States name. We gave it that name five years ago because we had such a time getting there." The place is probably destined to become an important point for shipping, as it is only about eighty miles from the mouth of the Yukon and is well protected. Shipbuilding is already an important feature, and Mr. Weare's company does not intend to let things remain idle.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**DUTCH HARBOR.** - From St. Michaels the ship on its homeward trip sails south across Behring sea and past the seal islands to the port of Dutch Harbor, about 800 miles away. Dutch Harbor is situated in the port of Unalaska Island. Within the port is an island with a crescent bay which is known as Dutch Harbor, where the company that owns the sealing privilege of the Pribyloff Islands has a supply station. At the back of this island, at the head of the bay, is another curved beach where is strung out the line of white painted houses that constitute the port of Unalaska. Unalaska Island is only a very small section of the Aleutian Islands which contain some pretty landscapes of bright green.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**BUILDING STEAMER FOR YUKON RIVER AT DUTCH HARBOR.** - An extraordinary impetus has been given to ship building by the discoveries of gold in the Klondike, and ship builders have been reaping a golden harvest without going to the land of gold for it. The remarkable activity of the transportation companies has helped to boom Alaska considerably and recent finds have proved that there is more bottom to the boom than many people were prepared to believe. Certain it is that transportation is going to be much easier and less expensive this year than last. Competition has brought this about, and although future travelers will not be in time for the first pickings in the gold fields they will have less to pay for being taken there.





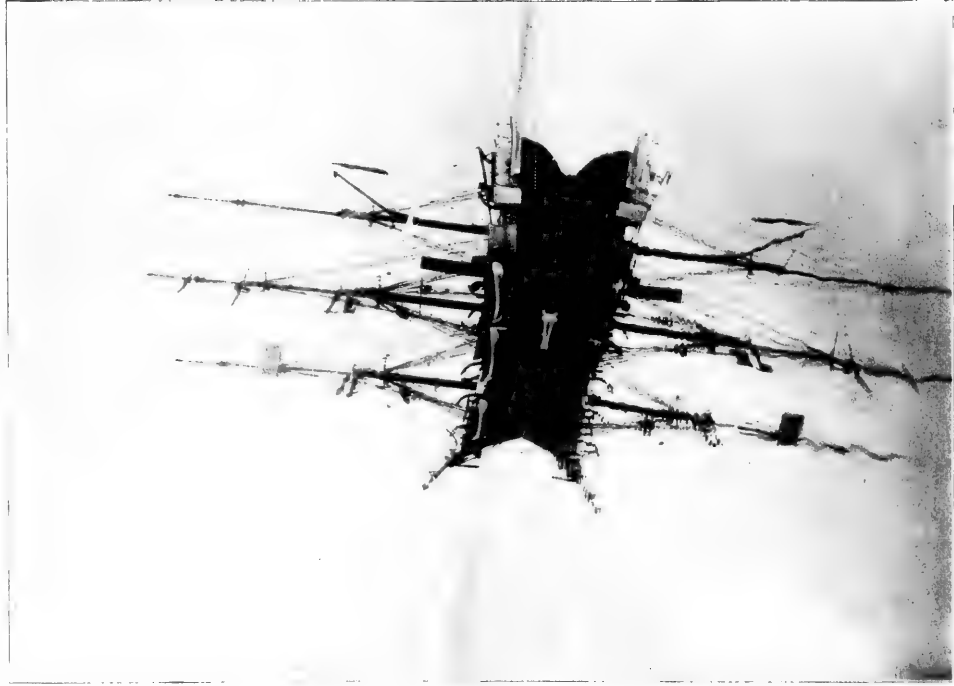
La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash

**ST. PAUL, KODIAK ISLAND.** -This is another of the many ports that are springing into prominence in the line of ocean transportation to the Yukon river. Kodiak is a fairly large sized island off the southeastern coast of the Alaskan peninsula. St. Paul is the first port in the island that the vessel stops at. The boat then follows a channel through the group of islands north of Kodiak to the base of the Alaskan peninsula along which it pursues its journey in a southwesterly direction to the Aleutian Islands, where it veers around and takes a direct northerly course, bearing eastward as it nears the mouth of the Yukon river. St. Paul is a fast growing town, and many a man could do worse than spend his summer vacation there.



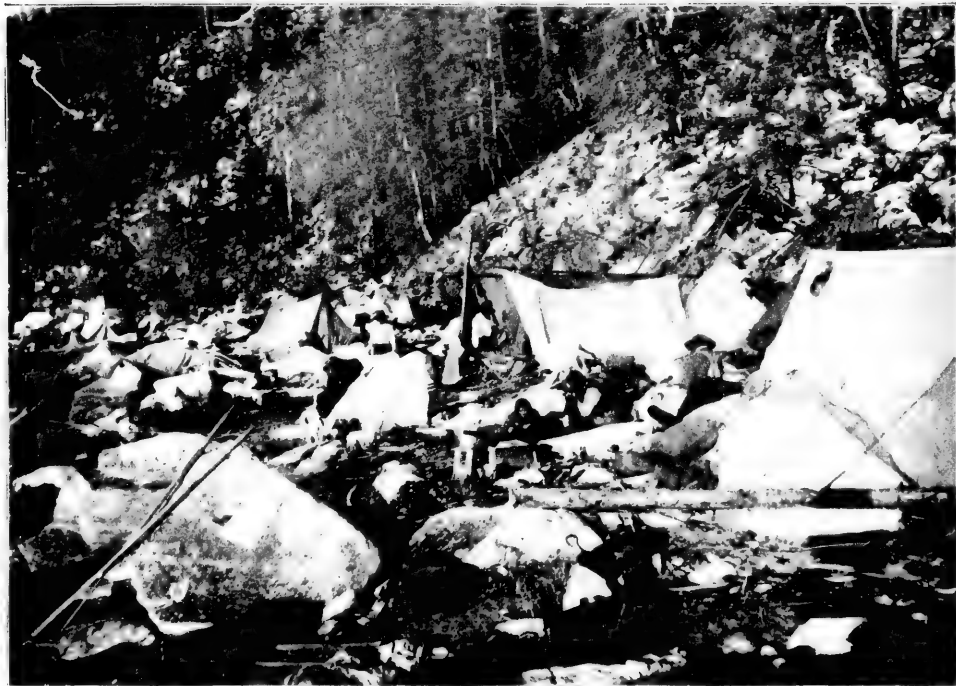
La Roche. Photo, Seattle, Wash.

UNALASKA. From San Francisco to Unalaska the distance is 2,200 miles. For about 1,000 miles toward the shores of Asia, the seventy islands of the Aleutian group, lie like stepping stones from the point of the Alaskan peninsula. Unalaska is the only one with a white settlement. It is the stopping place for ships bound for the Yukon and all points in Behring Sea. Unimak Island, the first of the Aleutian group, contains two volcanoes. The one known as Shishaldin is 9,000 feet high and the most symmetrical and perfect cone along the whole "Pacific Ring of Fire," tapering evenly from sea level to the sharpest point, whence a smoke pendant always floats. It is snow covered to within 2,000 feet of the surf which beats its base.



La Roche, Photo, Seattle, Wash.

**WHALER THRASHER . . . PORT CLARENCE.**—No country is more remarkable as a land of extremes than Alaska. It is either all day or all night; all sunshine or all rain; all ice and snow or all wild vegetation; tropical heat or arctic cold. From incessant rain one suddenly emerges into a clear, revivifying atmosphere that the sight can penetrate for inconceivable distances. The turbulent waters are subject to similar moods. Often raging with an uncontrollable fierceness, they sometimes change with an unaccountable rapidity into a calm, transparent condition, and reflect the smallest object with the accuracy of a mirror.



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**AN INDIAN CAMP.**—The natives of Alaska differ considerably in their physical and mental characteristics. Three different races of Indians are recognized as representing Alaska, although there are many divisions of these classes. The Innuits or Eskimos inhabit the coast and resemble the Mongolians. They exist under various tribal titles and quickly adapt themselves to civilized conditions. The Aleuts occupy the islands, and the Tannah Indians live in the interior. There are perhaps 4,000 of the latter, and they are of a very low order of intellect. The natives of the coast have a large development of shoulders, chest and arms, from generations of canoe-paddling ancestors, but the lower part of the body is stunted, and nearly every one is bow-legged.



## What Part VI Will Contain

### HYDRAULIC MINING

At Silver Bow Basin.

### CITY OF JUNEAU

Principal Port of Alaska.

### A LOG CABIN CHURCH

At One Time a Saloon.

### TAKING ICE ABOARD

In Takou Inlet.

### MOUNT EDGECOMB

A Magnificent Scene.

### METLAKAHTLA

Owned by Indians.

### THE PINNACLE RANGE

A View from Sitka.

### INDIAN AVENUE

A Peaceful Quarter.

### CITY OF SITKA

The Capital of Alaska.

### SITKA AT NIGHT

Photographed from the Harbor.

### THE GREEK CHURCH

A Beautiful Interior.

### A FINE DRIVEWAY

Near the City.

### FORT WRANGLE

Sailing for the North.

### THE MUIR GLACIER

Far Above Sea Level.

### ANOTHER VIEW

From the Steamer's Deck

### TOTEM POLES

At Kasa-an, Alaska.

### IN WRANGLE NARROWS

When the Water is Calm.

### THE GRAVE OF KUCK-SHAW

A Famous Tagish Chief.

### SOME INDIAN CABINS

At Yaas Bay.

### NATIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN

Off for Pennsylvania.

### INDIAN MERCHANTS

At the Treadwell Mines.

### REINDEER AT SEATTLE

U. S. Relief Expedition.

### LAPLANDERS AND CHILDREN

Reindeer Attendants.

### HOME FROM THE KLONDIKE

A Popular Welcome.



